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COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE WHOLE QUESTION OF PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS IN ALL THEIR ASPECTS

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee
(Fourth Committee)

Rapporteur: Ms. Riitta RESCH (Finland)

I. INTRODUCTION

1. At its 4th plenary meeting, on 19 September 1997, the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the General Committee, decided to include in the agenda of its fifty-second session the item entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects" and to allocate it to the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

2. The Fourth Committee considered the item at its 14th to 17th meetings, from 10 to 12 and on 14 November 1997 (see A/C.4/52/SR.14-17). The general debate on the item was held at the 14th to 17th meetings, from 10 to 12 and on 14 November.

3. For its consideration of the item, the Committee had before it the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/52/209).

4. At the 14th meeting, on 10 November, the representative of Egypt, in his capacity as Rapporteur of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, introduced the report of that Committee (see A/C.4/52/SR.14).

5. At the same meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations made a statement (see A/C.4/52/SR.14).

II. CONSIDERATION OF DRAFT RESOLUTION A/C.4/52/L.9 AND REV.1

6. At the 14th meeting, on 10 November, the representative of Canada, on behalf of Argentina, Canada, Egypt, Japan, Nigeria and Poland, introduced a draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects" (A/C.4/52/L.9).

7. At its 17th meeting, on 14 November, the Committee had before it a revised draft resolution entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects" (A/C.4/52/L.9/Rev.1), submitted by the sponsors of draft resolution A/C.4/52/L.9, in which the order of the second and third preambular paragraphs of draft resolution A/C.4/52/L.9 were reversed.

8. At the same meeting, the Committee adopted revised draft resolution A/C.4/52/L.9/Rev.1 without a vote (see para. 9).

III. RECOMMENDATION OF THE SPECIAL POLITICAL AND DECOLONIZATION COMMITTEE (FOURTH COMMITTEE)

9. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolution 2006 (XIX) of 18 February 1965 and all other relevant resolutions,

Recalling in particular its resolution 51/136 of 13 December 1996,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization,[1]

Affirming that the efforts of the United Nations in the peaceful settlement of disputes, including through its peacekeeping operations, are indispensable,

Welcoming the expansion of the membership of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations,

Convinced of the need for the United Nations to continue to improve its capabilities in the field of peacekeeping and to enhance the effective and efficient deployment of its peacekeeping operations,

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[1] Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 1 (A/52/1).

Considering the contribution that all States Members of the Organization make to peacekeeping,

Taking note of the widespread interest in contributing to the work of the Special Committee expressed by many Member States, in particular troop-contributing countries,

Bearing in mind the continuous necessity of preserving the efficiency and strengthening the effectiveness of the work of the Special Committee,

1. Welcomes the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations;[2]

2. Endorses the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee contained in paragraphs 34 to 91 of its report;

3. Urges Member States, the Secretariat and relevant organs of the United Nations to take all necessary steps to implement the proposals, recommendations and conclusions of the Special Committee;

4. Reiterates that those Member States that become personnel contributors to United Nations peacekeeping operations in years to come or participate in the future in the Special Committee for three consecutive years as observers shall, upon request in writing to the Chairman of the Committee, become members at the following session of the Committee;

5. Decides that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, shall continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects and shall review the implementation of its previous proposals and consider any new proposals so as to enhance the capacity of the United Nations to fulfil its responsibilities in this field;

6. Requests the Special Committee to submit a report on its work to the General Assembly at its fifty-third session;

7. Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its fifty-third session the item entitled "Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects".

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[2] A/52/209.